

*Did you know that female-owned businesses are growing twice as fast as male-owned businesses?*

*by Connie Blaine*

## Being Self-Employed

In fact, in the West and Southwest, the impact of women's businesses kept regions in the black during the recent economic downturn. So, clearly, self-employment is a viable option for women at this time in Utah—if you know what you're doing. But don't quit your job yet. If you're toying with the idea of becoming self-employed, you have quite a bit of research to do, starting with yourself. In self-employment, everything is YOUR fault and YOUR success. You are both the boss and the employee. You may own a small sole proprietorship, a franchise or a large factory or many-layered business. You may work out of your garage. You may be part of a partnership. Each of these involves different laws and rules in the state, the community you live in and under the national, state and local tax rules. It is ESSENTIAL that you do your research and write a good business plan. Lots of help is available for this—classes, non-profits. Start-up financing is also available if your research and your business plan are well-done.

### Am I an Entrepreneur?

Do you “think outside the box” in terms of personal life and business potential? You're an entrepreneur if you can truly answer “Yes!” to these questions:

- *Do I want to be my own boss?*
- *Can I accept responsibility for both success and failure?*
- *Am I a creative and independent thinker?*
- *Am I self-motivated?*
- *Am I well organized?*
- *Am I a “people person”?*
- *Do I love to work hard?*
- *Am I good with numbers?*
- *Do I have a financial cushion I can fall back on?*
- *Will my family and friends be supportive—financially? emotionally?*
- *Do I have the basic skills needed to succeed?*
- *What do I REALLY bring to my self-employment idea, by business concept?*

### On The Web

<http://www.nfwbo.org/>  
<http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov/ut/>  
<http://www.startupjournal.com/>  
<http://naacp.monster.com/wo/articles/entrepreneurs/>  
[http://www.ivillage.com/advanta?ice=spn.adv.brdg.wk.in\\_rec](http://www.ivillage.com/advanta?ice=spn.adv.brdg.wk.in_rec)  
<http://jobsearchtech.about.com/library/weekly/aa083099.htm>  
<http://www.bluesuitmom.com/career/changingjobs/advice/consulting.html>

Log onto this Web site:

<http://www.utah.gov/business/main/index>

It's probably your one best single source of self-employment resources, and Utah-specific information.